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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/666,722	09/20/2000	Yoshiaki Tanaka	0102/0138	6231

21395 7590 09/22/2006

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EXAMINER

SELLERS, DANIEL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,722

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel R. Sellers

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. **Claims 22-27** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heo, Kondo, and McPherson et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,298,025 (McPherson).
3. Regarding **claim 22**, see Heo column 20, lines 39-42 and column 21, lines 34-43. Heo teaches a device that decodes a stream containing audio packs and a stream that has a down sampling flag, a down mix flag, and a dequantization flag placed in a given area. Heo teaches PCM data with channel identifying features and it is inherent that the channels for the PCM digital audio signals are adjacent to each other (col. 12, lines 23-31). Heo teaches header information in a real-data recording (Col. 6 – Col. 7, Fig. 4, Fig. 5A-5E, and Table 11), and Heo teaches that the PCM packets have bit length information (Col. 10, lines 3-4 and Table 13) and the PCM digital audio signals are at positions adjacent to each other according to information about the assignment of the multiple channels, (Col. 9, line 50 – Col. 10, line 40, Table 12-13, Fig. 7, and Fig. 8A-8C). However, Heo does not teach a packeting process with CIP packets. Kondo teaches a packeting process involving CIP headers (Col. 22, line 58 – Col. 23, line 18, and Fig. 11 and 12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Heo and Kondo for the purpose of saving decoding time. Kondo teaches that an MPEG2-PS stream does not need to be converted to an MPEG2-TS to be transported over an IEEE1394 (Firewire) interface (Col. 3, line 39 – Col. 4, line 41).

Neither Heo nor Kondo teach multiple channels separated into a first channel group and a second channel group, wherein information regarding the sampling frequency for the first group and the second group. McPherson teaches audio, wherein it is grouped into a plurality of groups (Col. 3, lines 32-50). Each group can have different sampling frequency information in a header region (Col. 5, lines 11-32 and Col. 8, lines 27-30). McPherson also teaches that bit length information of the PCM can be changeable among 24 bits, 20 bits, and 16 bits (Col. 2, lines 36-40, Col. 3, lines 19-20 and Col. 4, lines 4-8). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Heo, Kondo, and McPherson for providing headers to divided data. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that headers are needed to correctly identify sampling rates and word lengths for proper playback or processing.

4. Regarding **claim 23**, the further limitation of claim 22, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 22. Heo teaches a down-sampling flag wherein the audio content is downsampled from 192 kHz to 96 kHz, or to one half of the original signal.

5. Regarding **claim 24**, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 22. The combination teaches these features.

6. Regarding **claim 25**, the further limitation of claim 24, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 23. The combination teaches a method of decoding packeted data with these features.

7. Regarding **claim 26**, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 22. The combination teaches a signal receiving method with these features.

8. Regarding **claim 27**, the further limitation of claim 26, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 23. The combination teaches these features.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 6/27/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10. Regarding **claims 22-27**, Heo teaches the amended features, wherein the bit length information is changeable between 24, 20, and 16 bits (table 13) and placing the audio signals adjacent to each other according to information about their assignment (Fig. 8A-8C).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tanaka et al., USPN 6,618,551, Fig. 52 teaches sampling frequency, downmix, and bit-length fields in a header. Applicant is take note that this application is a 102(e) type reference, since it is a different inventive entity.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel R. Sellers whose telephone number is 571-272-7528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2644

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DRS



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER